

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KIGALI 00740 191320Z
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KIGALI 740

STADIS//////////

FOR DICK MOOSE FROM CRIGLER

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, RW
SUBJECT: FOOD AID FOR RWANDA

REF: (A) STATE 82578; (B) KIGALI 199

1. I SHARE THE BELIEF WHICH YOU REGISTERED IN REFTEL A THAT CONSIDERABLY MORE FOOD AID FOR AFRICA MIGHT BE JUSTIFIED. CERTAINLY THIS IS SO IN THE CASE OF RWANDA. AS YOU KNOW, RWANDA FACES WHAT IS CERTAIN TO BE AN INCREASINGLY ACUTE STRAIN ON ITS FOOD GROWING CAPACITY DUE TO RAPIDLY RISING POPULATION PRESSURES. ALREADY SUFFERING FROM DECLINING NUTRITION LEVELS, RWANDANS FACE GROWING FOOD SHORTAGES OVER NEXT TWO DECADES, EVEN UNDER BEST OF PROJECTED CIRCUMSTANCES.

2. SOME MONTHS AGO, I WAS ENCOURAGED TO READ ABOUT NEW TITLE III OF FOOD FOR PEACE LEGISLATION, PROVIDING FOR "FORGIVENESS" OF FOOD PURCHASES FROM US IF REVENUES OF LOCAL SALE WERE APPLIED TO CERTAIN FOOD GROWING AND RURAL HEALTH PROJECTS. IN REFTEL B, WE REGISTERED OUR DESIRE TO BE INCLUDED IN SUCH PROGRAM AND TO GET STARTED QUICKLY.
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AS SUGGESTED IN AIRGRAM WHICH ANNOUNCED TITLE III PROGRAM, I ALSO MADE KNOWN THIS POSSIBILITY TO GOR AND HAVE OBTAINED VERY ENTHUSIASTIC RESPONSE. IN MEANTIME, WE HAVE BEEN PROMISED A TDY VISIT THIS SUMMER BY AID FOOD FOR PEACE OFFICER NOW STATIONED NAIROBI WHO WE HOPED WOULD HELP US PUT TOGETHER RWANDAN TITLE III PACKAGE.

3. ON CONSULTATION IN DEPT, HOWEVER, I LEARNED WITH GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT THAT THERE WERE STRINGS ATTACHED TO TITLE III WHICH I FAILED TO NOTICE IN INITIAL AIRGRAM: THAT HOST GOVERNMENT WOULD BE EXPECTED TO PAY OCEAN AND INLAND TRANSPORTATION COSTS AND THAT THESE WOULD HAVE TO BE PAID IN DOLLARS. IF THESE STRINGS REMAIN ATTACHED, PROGRAM IS OUT OF THE QUESTION FOR RWANDA, AS FREIGHT COSTS LIKELY TO AMOUNT TO MORE THAN VALUE OF FOODSTUFFS. RWANDA, MOREOVER, SIMPLY HAS NO FOREIGN EXCHANGE AVAILABLE FOR SUCH PURPOSE.

4. WHILE IN WASHINGTON, I INQUIRED AS TO WHETHER "FORGIVENESS" UNDER TITLE III MIGHT BE INTERPRETED TO COVER SHIPPING COSTS AS WELL AS FOODSTUFFS THEMSELVES -- AN INTERPRETATION WHICH WOULD SEEM WHOLLY CONSISTENT WITH PRESUMED LEGISLATIVE INTENT. IF SO, THIS WOULD OPEN UP POSSIBILITIES ONCE AGAIN FOR RWANDA. HOWEVER, I WAS UNABLE TO GET A DEFINITIVE READOUT ON THIS INTERPRETATION.

5. RWANDA NEEDS THIS FOOD AID, AND WE HAVE SOME DANDY IDEAS FOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS MAKING USE OF COUNTER-PART FUNDS, PROJECTS WHICH WILL VERY MUCH BENEFIT RURAL POOR AND ASSIST IN INCREASING DOMESTIC FOOD PRODUCTION. WOULD THEREFORE VERY MUCH APPRECIATE YOUR INTERVENTION IN PURSUIT OF "FORGIVENESS" QUESTION AS IT RELATES TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SHIPPING COSTS FOR TITLE III.
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Message Attributes

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